Mineral Resources Branch

General Guidelines for Treasure Trove Applicants

Information Circular ME 61

Third Edition

Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles

Note: This guide is provided for convenience only. For accurate reference the reader should consult the appropriate statutes.

NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources

Halifax, Nova Scotia

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General Guidelines for Treasure Trove Applicants

Introduction

The *Treasure Trove Act* was enacted in 1954 to manage the exploration for and recovery of precious stones or metals in a state other than their natural state or any treasure or treasure trove. Management of these materials emphasizes careful and methodical recovery, which respects the archeological integrity of the site(s) being examined. Proponents are required to either obtain a Heritage Research Permit from the Nova Scotia Museum or a letter from the Curator of Special Places stating that such a permit is not required.

For sites located in the offshore, the Receiver of Wrecks (*Canada Shipping Act*) will attempt to establish rightful ownership of the material recovered from ship wrecks. In addition, the Federal Government's *Navigable Waters Protection Act* requires that there is no disruption to shipping as a result of activities licenced under the *Treasure Trove Act.*

The Process

(1) **Application Fees** - $500.00 (Cheques payable to Minister of Finance)

(2) **Application & Work Proposal** - Applications are to be in the form of a letter addressed to the Registrar of Mineral and Petroleum Titles. The area of interest is to be identified by the mineral rights grid: map, tract, claim. A description of the mineral rights grid is contained in the online guide titled "A Guide to Mineral Exploration Legislation in Nova Scotia" (http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/pdf/ic58.htm). Maps may be obtained from the Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles. The work proposal is to outline the type and duration of work planned. Generally, work proposals are organized by year (example: Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, etc.). Licences may be issued for different terms depending on the work proposal (two-year, three-year, five-year terms, etc.).

Mr. Richard Ratcliffe
Registrar of Mineral and Petroleum Titles
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Founders Square, 3rd Floor
1701 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 698
Halifax, NS B3J 2T9

Tel: 902-424-4068
Fax:902-424-7735

URL: http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/one/rmt-home.htm

Related URL: http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/dnr/paal147.stm

(3) Treasure Trove applicants are required to obtain a **Heritage Research Permit** or a letter from the Curator of Special Places stating that a Heritage Research Permit is not required.

Special Places Protection Act
http://museum.gov.ns.ca/places/special/palintro.htm

Heritage Research Permit
http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/tourism/Paal157.stm

Underwater Archeology
http://museum.gov.ns.ca/arch/uwat.htm

Mr. Robert Ogilvie
Curator of Special Places
Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

Tel: 902-424-6475
Fax: 902-424-0560

(4) Landowner permission is required.

(5) When the application is complete, it is forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources for the consideration of the Executive Council. If accepted, a treasure trove license is prepared for issuance by the Minister. If material (precious stones or metals in a state other than their natural state or any treasure or treasure trove) is recovered a royalty is to be paid. Generally, a 10% royalty is paid "in kind," and may involve negotiations between the licensee, the Curator of Collections for the Nova Scotia Museum, and Department of Natural Resources.

Note: Readers are reminded that this guide has no legislative sanction, and it is meant for general reference purposes only. Please refer to the following statues and publications for more information.

Treasure Trove Act
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/statutes/treasure.htm

Navigable Waters Protection Act
http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/N-22/87530.html

Canada Shipping Act
http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/S-9/21456.html

A Guide to Exporting Cultural Property from Canada
http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pcm-mcp/guide_e.cfm

Receiver of Wrecks - Transport Canada
http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/ships-and-operations-standards/nwp/wrecks.htm